CLAIMS

[c1]   1.   In a controller, a method for maintaining user information in a group communication network, the method comprising:

maintaining information about a net in the group communication network; and

maintaining information about a user in the net.

[c2]   2.   The method of claim 1, wherein the maintaining information about the net includes maintaining a net identifier.

[c3]   3.   The method of claim 1, wherein the maintaining information about the net includes maintaining a list of current users in the net.

[c4]   4.   The method of claim 1, wherein the maintaining information about the net includes maintaining a net status, the net status including a secure net or a clear net.

[c5]   5.   The method of claim 1, wherein the maintaining information about the net includes maintaining a net state, the net state including an active state or a dormant state.

[c6]   6.   The method of claim 1, wherein the maintaining information about the net includes maintaining a net address.

[c7]   7.   The method of claim 1, wherein the maintaining information about the net includes maintaining information identifying an arbitration scheme.

[c8]   8.   The method of claim 1, wherein the maintaining information about the user includes maintaining a user status, the user status including talking or listening.

[c9]   9.   The method of claim 1, wherein the maintaining information about the user includes maintaining a user priority.

[c10]   10.   The method of claim 9, wherein the user priority includes a user privilege level to modify the information about the net.

[c11]   11.   The method of claim 1, wherein the maintaining information about the user includes maintaining a user Internet protocol (IP) address.

[c12]   12.   The method of claim 1, wherein the maintaining information about the user includes maintaining information identifying existing nets the user is authorized to participate in.

[c13]   13.   In a controller, a database for maintaining user information in a group communication network, the database comprising:

a first portion for maintaining information about a net in the group communication network; and

a second portion for maintaining information about a user in the net.

[c14]   14.   In a controller, a computer-readable medium embodying a method for maintaining user information in a group communication network, the method comprising:

maintaining information about a net in the group communication network; and

maintaining information about a user in the net.

[c15]   15.   The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the maintaining information about the net includes maintaining a net identifier.

[c16]   16.   The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the maintaining information about the net includes maintaining a list of current users in the net.

[c17]   17.   The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the maintaining information about the net includes maintaining a net status, the net status including a secure net or a clear net.

[c18]   18.   The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the maintaining information about the net includes maintaining a net state, the net state including an active state or a dormant state.

[c19]   19.   The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the maintaining information about the net includes maintaining a net address.

[c20]   20.   The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the maintaining information about the net includes maintaining information identifying an arbitration scheme.

[c21]   21.   The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the maintaining information about the user includes maintaining a user status, the user status including talking or listening.

[c22]   22.   The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the maintaining information about the user includes maintaining a user priority.

[c23]   23.   The computer-readable medium of claim 22, wherein the user priority includes a user privilege level to modify the information about the net.

[c24]   24.   The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the maintaining information about the user includes maintaining a user Internet Protocol (IP) address.

[c25]   25.   The computer-readable medium of claim 14, wherein the maintaining information about the user includes maintaining information identifying existing nets the user is authorized to participate in.

[c26]   26.   A controller for maintaining user information in a group communication network, the controller comprising:

   means for maintaining information about a net in the group communication network; and

   means for maintaining information about a user in the net.

[c27]   27.   The controller of claim 26, wherein the means for maintaining information about the net includes means for maintaining a net identifier.

[c28]   28.   The controller of claim 26, wherein the means for maintaining information about the net includes means for maintaining a list of current users in the net.

[c29]   29.   The controller of claim 26, wherein the means for maintaining information about the net includes means for maintaining a net status, the net status including a secure net or a clear net.

[c30]   30.   The controller of claim 26, wherein the means for maintaining information about the net includes means for maintaining a net state, the net state including an active state or a dormant state.

[c31]   31.   The controller of claim 26, wherein the means for maintaining information about the net includes means for maintaining a net address.

[c32]   32.   The controller of claim 26, wherein the means for maintaining information about the net includes means for maintaining information identifying an arbitration scheme.

[c33]   33.   The controller of claim 26, wherein the means for maintaining information about the net includes means for maintaining a user status, the user status including talking or listening.

[c34]   34.   The controller of claim 26, wherein the means for maintaining information about the net includes means for maintaining a user priority.

[c35]   35.   The controller of claim 34, wherein the user priority includes a user privilege level to modify the information about the net.

[c36]   36.   The controller of claim 26, wherein the means for maintaining information about the net includes means for maintaining a user Internet Protocol (IP) address.

[c37]   37.   The controller of claim 26, wherein the means for maintaining information about the net includes means for maintaining information identifying existing nets the user is authorized to participate in.

[c38]   38.   A controller for maintaining user information in a group communication network, the controller comprising:

a memory unit; and

a processor communicatively coupled to the memory unit, the processor being capable of:

maintaining information about a net in the group communication network; and

maintaining information about a user in the net.

[c39]   39.   The controller of claim 38, wherein the processor is capable of maintaining a net identifier.

[c40]   40.   The controller of claim 38, wherein the processor is capable of maintaining a list of current users in the net.

[c41]   41.   The controller of claim 38, wherein the processor is capable of maintaining a net status, the net status including a secure net or a clear net.

[c42]   42.   The controller of claim 38, wherein the processor is capable of maintaining a net state, the net state including an active state or a dormant state.

[c43]   43.   The controller of claim 38, wherein the processor is capable of maintaining a net address.

[c44]   44.   The controller of claim 38, wherein the processor is capable of maintaining information identifying an arbitration scheme.

[c45]   45.   The controller of claim 38, wherein the processor is capable of maintaining a user status, the user status including talking or listening.

[c46]   46.   The controller of claim 38, wherein the processor is capable of maintaining a user priority.

[c47]   47.   The controller of claim 34, wherein the user priority includes a user privilege level to modify the information about the net.

[c48]   48.   The controller of claim 38, wherein the processor is capable of maintaining a user Internet Protocol (IP) address.

[c49]   49.   The controller of claim 38, wherein the processor is capable of maintaining information identifying existing nets the user is authorized to participate in.